

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 VO-03 SCA-01 ORM-02 DHA-02 H-01

INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /032 W

-----071413Z 054988 /53

R 071006Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8031

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BUDAPEST 0722

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CSCE, CVIS, PFOR, SHUM, HU, US

SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN DIVIDED FAMILY CASES

REF: (A) BUDAPEST 0559, (B) BUDAPEST 0360, (C) BUDAPEST 0667

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING A RIGOROUS CONSULAR DEPARTMENT SESSION ON DIVIDED FAMILIES CONSUL CONTRASTED CURRENT NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN SEVERAL CASES WITH POSITIVE GOH ASSURANCES (REFTELS B AND C) RECENTLY GIVEN POLOFF, AND STRESSED RELEVANT NEW FACTOR OF GREATER WASHINGTON CONCERN ON HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE. MFA OFFICIAL LAMENTED USG INSENSITIVITY BOTH TO HUNGARY'S FAIRLY GOOD RECORD ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND TO ITS DESIRE FOR USG PROGRESS ON MFN AND CROWN. EMBASSY JUDGES CONVERSATION SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO WARRANT COMPREHENSIVE REPORT BY CABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA CONSULAR DEPARTMENT AMERICAN DESK OFFICER SZEPES BEING OUT OF COUNTRY, CONSUL MET ON MARCH 4 WITH CONSULAR DEPARTMENT DEPUTY CHIEF EGYED. CONSUL EXPRESSED USG CONCERN AND DISMAY OVER CONTRAST BETWEEN LATEST NEGATIVE DIVIDED FAMILY DEVELOPMENTS (REFTEL A AND PARA. 6 BELOW) AND POSITIVE MFA ASSURANCES CONVEYED TO POLOFF ON JANUARY 31 AND MARCH 1 (REFTELS B AND C). CONSUL ENUMERATED THOSE ASSURANCES PER PARA. 1 REFTEL B. HE POINTED OUT CURRENT INTENSE USG CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN

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RIGHTS WORLDWIDE AND CAUTIONED THAT CONTINUED NONRESOLUTION OF LONG-OUTSTANDING DIVIDED FAMILY PROBLEM CASES COULD NOT BUT ATTRACT SOONER OR LATER U.S. DOMESTIC INTEREST TO HUNGARY'S DETRIMENT. THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE, CONSUL STATED, IN VIEW OF HUNGARY'S RELATIVELY POSITIVE RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS INCLUDING EMIGRATION. CONSUL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOH IN NEAR

FUTURE MIGHT FEEL ITSELF OBLIGED TO PUBLICLY CRITICIZE U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH GOH ALLIES, BUT EMPHASIZED WE WOULD STILL DRAW POSITIVE CONCLUSIONS FROM QUIET AND PRIVATE FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM CASES NOTWITHSTANDING WHAT GOH SAYS PUBLICLY. FINALLY CONSUL IDENTIFIED MAIN PROBLEM IN CURRENT CASES NOT AS A LEGAL BUT ADMINISTRATIVE ONE SINCE HUNGARIAN LAW DOES PERMIT EXCEPTIONS TO THE USUAL EMIGRATION RULES TO BE MADE IN "WELL-FOUNDED" CASES. CONSUL ILLUSTRATED POINT BY REFERENCE TO U.S. INA WHICH LEGALLY DENIES VISAS TO COMMUNISTS, BUT PERMITS THEM TO VISIT U.S. BY MEANS OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXCEPTIONS (WAIVERS) WHICH USG APPLIES LIBERALLY TO HUNGARIANS.

3. EGYED PROMPTLY ASKED HOW POLOFF DIVIDED FAMILY DISCUSSIONS HAD COME

ME ABOUT. CONSUL REPLIED TRUTHFULLY THAT POLOFF HAD BROUGHT MATTER UP ROUTINELY IN COURSE OF GENERAL WORKING-LEVEL CSCE DISCUSSION, BUT SPECIFIC RESPONSE HE RECEIVED HAD IMPRESSED USG AS BEING DELIVERED ON INSTRUCTIONS AS AN AUTHORITATIVE GOH MESSAGE. EGYED RECALLED THAT HUNGARY'S GRANTING EXIT PERMISSION IN SOME 50 PERCENT OF DIVIDED FAMILY CASES USG HAS PRESENTED (SINCE 9/75) REPRESENTS GOOD PERFORMANCE, AND HE EXPECTED SIMILAR PROCEDURES AND RESULTS TO CONTINUE -- EVEN IF SLOWLY, EGYED STATED THAT GOH DOES NOT ENTERTAIN DIVIDED FAMILY REPRESENTATIONS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WITH NEARLY THE FREQUENCY AND DETAIL AS FROM U.S., AND CITED NAGY-MCAULIFFE LETTER OF APRIL 1976 IN SUPPORT. (IN BRIEF APRIL 8 LETTER TO AMBASSADOR DEPFOMIN NOTED THAT CONSULAR DEPARTMENT HAD "LISTENED TO" CONSUL ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, AND HUNGARIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUTHORITIES HAD PASSED SEVERAL FAVORABLE DIVIDED FAMILY DECISIONS.)

4. IN A PECULIER STATEMENT EGYED WONDERED WHETHER OR NOT HE SHOULD FEEL "FRIGHTENED" BY CONSUL'S PRESENTATION. CONSUL REPLIED THAT IN ORDER TO BE FRIGHTENED THERE IS IMPLICIT THE EXISTENCE OF THREATS, AND NONE WERE BEING MADE OR SUGGESTED. BUT, CONSUL AVERRED, CERTAIN FACTS EXISTED INDEPENDENT OF THE WILL OF EGYED AND HIMSELF, AND AS A "FRIEND" OF THE CONSULAR DEPARTMENT HE FELT IT IMPERATIVE TO HONESTLY BRING THEM TO EGYED'S ATTENTION. THESE FACTS WERE (A) OBJECTIVE CONTRAST BETWEEN WHAT POLOFF HAD BEEN TOLD AND WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE CASES, AND (B) GROWING HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN IN THE U.S. CONSUL STRESSED THAT USG STILL HOPED TO BE ABLE TO RESOLVE DIVIDED FAMILY PROBLEMS BY WORKING-LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS WHICH, AS QUIET AND LOW-KEY, COULD BE CANDID.

5. IN A RAMBLING STATEMENT EGYED EXPRESSED HIS "PERSONAL BELIEF" THAT EVEN IF HUNGARY "BURNED ITS SOUL" TO FULLY IMPLEMENT CSCE, "WHO WOULD NOTICE? - HUNGARY IS A SMALLY COUNTRY."

HE RELATED THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY UPON HIS RETIREMENT SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE TO BE ABLE "TO COUNT ON THE FINGERS OF ONE HAND" WHAT "THE UNITED STATES HAS DONE FOR HUNGARY," AND SAID THERE WERE AT LEAST TWO THINGS HE WAS TALKING ABOUT. SESSION CONCLUDED BY CONSUL'S EXPRESSING CONTINUED WILLINGNESS TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO CONSULAR DEPARTMENT IN ITS DEALINGS WITH EMBASSY AND USG.

6. FYI: ON MARCH 3 ATTILA KARDOS' GRANDMOTHER INFORMED CONSUL CHILD'S SECOND GUARDIANSHIP PERMISSION APPEAL HAD BEEN DENIED FEBRUARY 2 ON SAME GROUNDS AS BEFORE. ACCORDINGLY CONSUL CITED THREE CASES (FARKAS, KARDOS, FARO) TO EGYED DURING PRESENTATION. KARDOS GRANDMOTHER SAID GUARDIANSHIP AUTHORITY HAD INDICATED ATTILA MIGHT GET EXIT PERMISSION IN EARLY 1978, BUT SHE PLANS TO REAPPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 VO-03 SCA-01 ORM-02 DHA-02 H-01  
INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /032 W  
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E.O. 11652: N/A

7. COMMENT: TONE OF THIS SESSION WAS SOLEMN. EGYED WAS DEFINITELY NOT HIS USUAL, BANTERING SELF. CONSUL HAD PROMISED PROTOCOL IN SEEKING APPOINTMENT TO TRY TO LIMIT SESSION TO A HALF-HOUR IN VIEW PROTOCOL STATEMENT THAT EGYED HAD HEAVY WORKLOAD. EGYED HIMSELF STATED UNCHARACTERISTICALLY AT VERY OUTSET THAT HE HOPED THAT WHAT HAD BROUGHT CONSUL OVER WAS "TRULY URGENT." EGYED MAY HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK BY CONSUL'S ENSUING BRISK PRESENTATION. BUT OUR GUESS IS THAT EGYED WAS MANIFESTING IRRITATION AT HAVING APPARENTLY NOT BEEN INFORMED BY MFA POLITICAL SIDE OF WHAT IT HAD TOLD POLOFF. EGYED'S STATEMENT THAT HE EXPECTED CASES TO BE HANDLED IN SAME MANNER AS HITHERTO LENDS CREDENCE TO VIEW THAT CONSULAR

DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN LEFT IN THE DARK. EGYED MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN REACTING TO USG'S HAVING RAISED DIVIDED FAMILIES AT POLITICAL LEVEL. BUT HE APPEARED TO ACCEPT CONSUL'S EXPLANATION OF WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED ON JANUARY 31.

8. WORTHY OF NOTE IS THAT DESPITE PRESS OF BUSINESS EGYED PROLONGED CONVERSATION FROM 35 MINUTES TO A FULL HOUR, AND IT WAS DURING THIS ADDITIONAL PERIOD THAT HE MADE STATEMENTS BOTH ON SPECIAL ATTENTION GOH GIVES TO U.S. DIVIDED FAMILY REPRESENTATIONS AND HUNGARIAN DISMAY AT U.S. NONAPPRECIATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHAT IT DOES. THE TWO TOPICS EGYED CRYPTICALLY REFERRED TO WERE, OF COURSE, MFN AND THE CROWN. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME EGYED HAS RAISED THESE TOPICS, AND THE LINKAGE BETWEEN THEM AND "SPECIAL ATTENTION" IS OBVIOUS.

9. NET RESULT OF SESSION REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT GOH IS NOW CLEARLY ON NOTICE THAT WE REGARD DIVIDED FAMILY ASSURANCES GIVEN POLOFF AS A DEFINITE COMMITMENT TO PROGRESS, AND WE AWAIT RESULTS.  
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## Message Attributes

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